

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
(ADA) ADVISORY COUNCIL**

June 20, 2003
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Eames, Toni Eames, Annette Carter, Stan Simas, Vidal Medina, Mary Beth Randall, Jose Luis Barraza, Jan Carmichael, Shirley Harper, Shirley Garrett, Williford Burton, John Ramirez, and Pat Sigala

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Jon Elam, Stella DuBois-Pantages, Robyn Kale, and Jane Rivas of the Public Works Department, and Perry Stofan of the Convention Center.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Self introductions were made.

Meeting Minutes

The May 16, 2003 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Member Issues Not on Agenda

- " Annette Carter: Blackstone/Shaw Intersection Bus Stop concerns regarding the placement and it's legality. Per Jon Elam FAX staff checked the location and agree the bus stop is dangerous. FAX will move it back to a safe location.
- " Stan Simas: Butler/Willow Bus Stop, (across from the IRS) sits on the grass and he would like cement there. Jon Elam said he would have staff go out and investigate.
- " Jan Carmichael: Would like staff to revisit the issue of a Stop Sign at the "O" Street Crosswalk in route to the Mariposa Mall.
- " Williford Burton: Wanted to reschedule missed meeting with Jon Elam on a downtown bus stop. The meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2003 at noon.
- " Toni Eames: Audible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at Shaw/Valentine, continuously talks, it's too low in some areas, etc. The braille at the Blackstone/Shaw intersection is a very pointed braille and difficult to read. Jon Elam stated a follow-up was done and Robert Andersen contacted the Contractor asking him to please evaluate the braille and make the necessary changes.
- " Jose Luis Barraza: Concrete at southwest corner of Tulare, Santa Fe Railroad/ "R" Street (across from Muex Home) is broken up making it difficult for anyone in a wheelchair to travel on.

Convention Center Updates

Perry Stofan brought everyone up to speed on the projects he has been working on. One of the projects was to install a rail inside the seating area of the Soroyan Theater. It is scheduled to be completed by August 1, 2003. Perry is also working on directional signage addressing accessibility for disabled patrons of the Convention Center.

Perry also brought to the attention of the Advisory Council that the Convention Center seated the pit for the first time. Fifty-four seats were placed in the pit. Four accessible seats were added and it appears this would become standard. Perry also, mentioned the additional accessible seating added to the Selland Arena and presented a layout map highlighting the subject seating locations. A larger version of the subject map will be included in the next mailing of the Advisory Council Minutes.

A discussion was held on the privatization of the Convention Center and it was suggested a letter be drafted to the Mayor from Ed Eames that as condition of how the Convention Center is operated in terms of making the facility as accessible as possible, Perry Stofan's work and efforts be continued. It needs to be put on record that we expect a liaison relationship with the Contractor.

ADA Hotline/Website

Jane Rivas reported on the number of calls received on the Hotline. Discussion and concern ensued regarding the number of calls received and differentiating the Hotline calls from the standard calls received off the Streets Maintenance Division main line. There was concern that many of the Hotline calls were not received or addressed. Stella indicated she would ask Electronics and Communication to check the line for any problems, etc.

Jon Elam reported the Department was able to purchase software for Stella's computer in order that she may download the meeting agenda and minutes, etc. From a technology/software standpoint everything is in order and available. It is now a matter of getting this information on-line and converted into PDF format for posting.

Curb Cut Issues

Jon Elam gave a quick update on the City completing another 47 curb cuts which brings the total to a little over 1200 for the year. Jon feels we continue to make real progress in this area.

Jon also reported on a recent successful meeting with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD). They agreed to support the City and help complete an additional 35 curb cuts. FMFCD agreed to take care of 30% of the responsibility with the City of Fresno taking care of 70% . Some of these 35 curb cuts are in addition to the City's commitment of 600 curb cuts a year. The FMFCD wishes to set up a Memorandum of Understanding defining their responsibilities to address future ADA issues in writing.

It was suggested the list of completed ADA curb cuts and the number left to be completed be posted on the ADA website.

The Curb Cut Tour was discussed. John Ramirez commended the tour participants, especially Marilyn Jost and Annette Carter. Ed also commended City personnel for their involvement and making the attempt to see things through the ADA Advisory Council's eyes.

Public Works Amended Transition Plan

Jon Elam spoke with the City Attorney's Office to ensure the changes reflecting the outcome of the March 11, 2003 City Council Meeting. The City Attorney's Office will have a completed document available for the next meeting of the ADA Advisory Council.

MIG Update

Jon Elam introduced Robyn Kale, the ADA Summer Intern, and asked that she give an update._Robyn has been working with Melissa Erickson of MIG. MIG cannot move forward until they have all the questionnaires completed from each of the City Departments. Twenty surveys still need to be completed out of seventy-one. The ADA Advisory Council would like at least a partial report on the June 19, 2002 Open House Forum and asked Robyn to ask MIG about the status of that report. The Council was not especially pleased with MIG's performance to date and did not feel they've fulfilled their contractual agreement.

Ed Eames suggested that Robyn keeps notes of any problems or lack of cooperation she may encounter/experience with City Departments in regards to compliance with this survey.

Member Items

- " The Curb Cut Tour was discussed. Annette Carter gave a brief summary.
- " The ADA Advisory Council was most impressed and complimentary to Jon Elam in that he has championed the ADA Advisory Council's cause and they felt the need to express such.
- " Roundabouts were discussed and the Council felt the whole notion of traffic engineering as being unconcerned with pedestrian safety and pedestrian access. Roundabouts are unsafe and there needs to be a major effort to turn this around and assure that roundabouts do not happen in Fresno, most especially in private developments.

At the Roundabout Seminar the issue heard was that there was very little pedestrian safety problems in roundabouts and the reason is - pedestrians don't use them. They avoid them because they are unsafe. They want to live too. Ed indicated that the only reference to pedestrians is that they are impediments in traffic movement.

Ed felt the need to organize and wanted Roundabouts listed as a major agenda item for the next meeting. There is the need to go before the City Council and he advised everyone to go before their City Council representatives and bring this to their attention. The issue for the Advisory Council is very simple. Unless the people who are designing these roundabouts can assure that there will be a safe and accessible pathway for pedestrians particularly disabled pedestrians with visual impairments or blindness, they will meet with opposition.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 1, 2003.